



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Census of Aquaculture Finally Here for Producers in the Northeast

**Harrisburg, PA** – Last conducted five years ago, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is conducting the 2018 Census of Aquaculture. The Census is the only comprehensive source of information on the aquaculture industry in the United States and serves as the baseline for many decisions involving the sustainability and growth of U.S. aquaculture.

“The aquaculture industry has undergone numerous changes since the last time this information was gathered in 2013,” said Northeastern Regional Director King Whetstone. “The results of the 2018 Census of Aquaculture will help assess the current state of this part of the U.S. economy and Northeastern Region’s economy – helping the industry demonstrate its strength and advocate for its needs.”

The Census of Aquaculture collects data on water area, production and sales, point of first sales outlets, and aquaculture distributed for restoration or conservation purposes. This information is used by all those with interest in the aquaculture sector from federal, state and local governments to agribusinesses, trade associations, researchers and producers themselves. For example, businesses and suppliers use the information to determine the locations of facilities that will serve growers and plan for the production and marketing of new products.

“Your answers to the Aquaculture Census will help shape national and local policies affecting our region’s aquaculture industry,” Whetstone said about aquaculture producers. “Only you can supply the answers needed to produce a useful and accurate picture of this important agriculture sector, so do your part and respond when you receive your form.”

The 2018 Census of Aquaculture will be the fourth national Census conducted by NASS to collect data on the aquaculture industry. The Census of Aquaculture will be mailed to all farms that reported aquaculture activity during the 2017 Census of Agriculture. Questionnaires will be mailed December 17. Producers can respond by mail, online, telephone, or personal enumeration by January 14, 2019.

The Census of Aquaculture is part of the Census of Agriculture Program. Federal law requires all producers who receive a Census report form to respond and requires NASS to keep all individual information confidential. Survey results will be available October 10, 2019.

For more information, call the NASS Northeastern Regional Field Office at 1-800-498-1518 or visit <https://www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus/index.php>

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